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Picklo

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(54) **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ATTACHING SIGNAGE TO APPAREL**

(71) Applicant: **Squirleez LLC**, Washington, MI (US)

(72) Inventor: **Ryan Michael Picklo**, Leonard, MI (US)

(73) Assignee: **SQUIRLEEZ LLC**, Washington, MI (US)

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CPC ***A44C 25/007*** (2013.01)

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USPC 351/52; 63/23, 38
See application file for complete search history.

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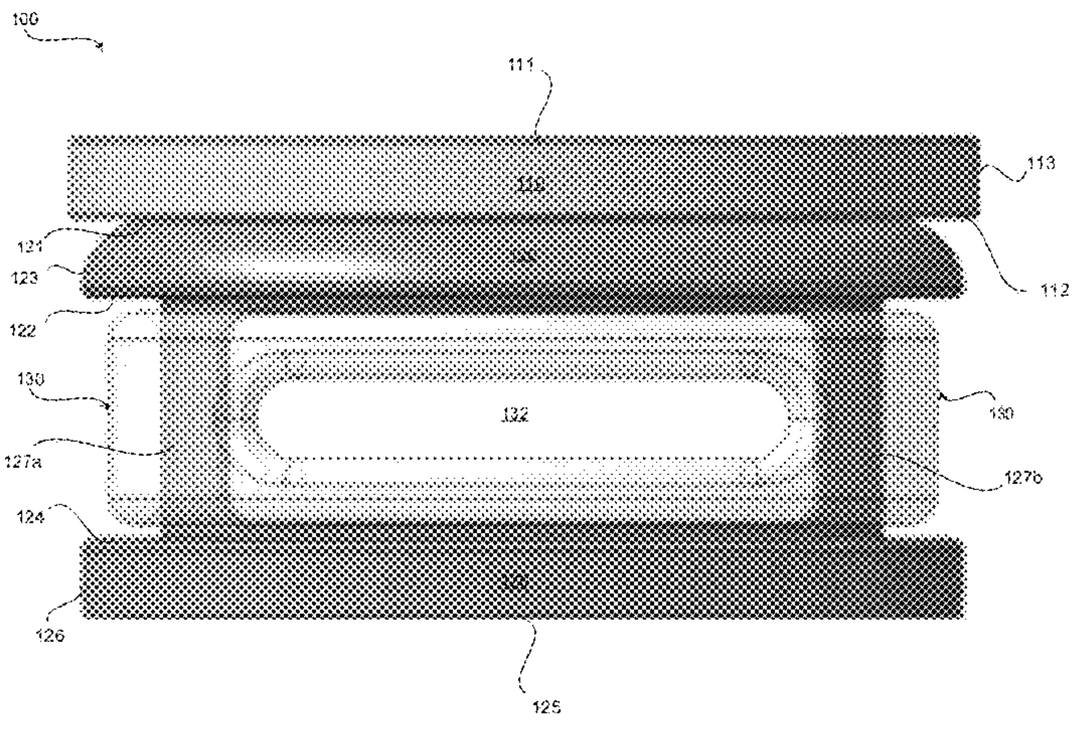
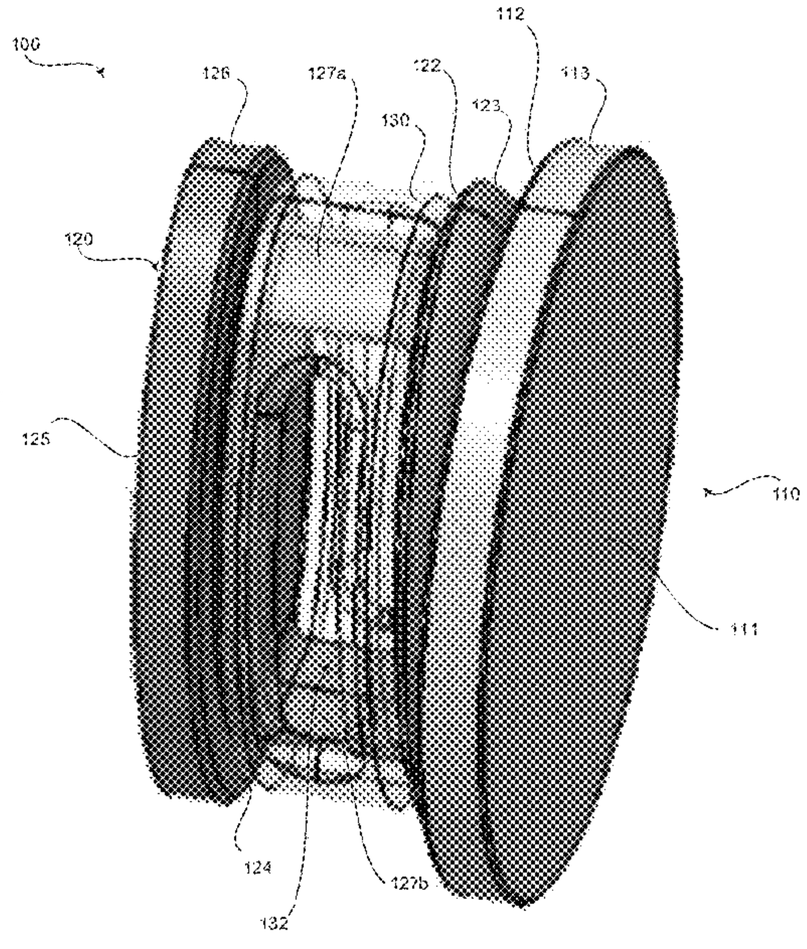
Primary Examiner — Jack W Lavinder
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A signage apparatus includes signage and an attachment mechanism. The signage includes front and rear faces. The attachment mechanism includes a base, a cap, outer stabilizers, and a flexible component. The base includes base upper and lower sides. The base upper side is attached to the rear face of the signage. The cap includes cap lower and upper sides. The outer stabilizers extend between outer cap portions of the cap upper side and outer base portions of the base lower side. The outer stabilizers, the cap upper side, and the base lower side form an aperture extending through the attachment mechanism. The flexible component extends between the outer stabilizers and between the cap upper side and the base lower side. The flexible component includes at least one slit. The attachment mechanism is configured to receive a piece of apparel through the at least one slit and the aperture.

20 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets





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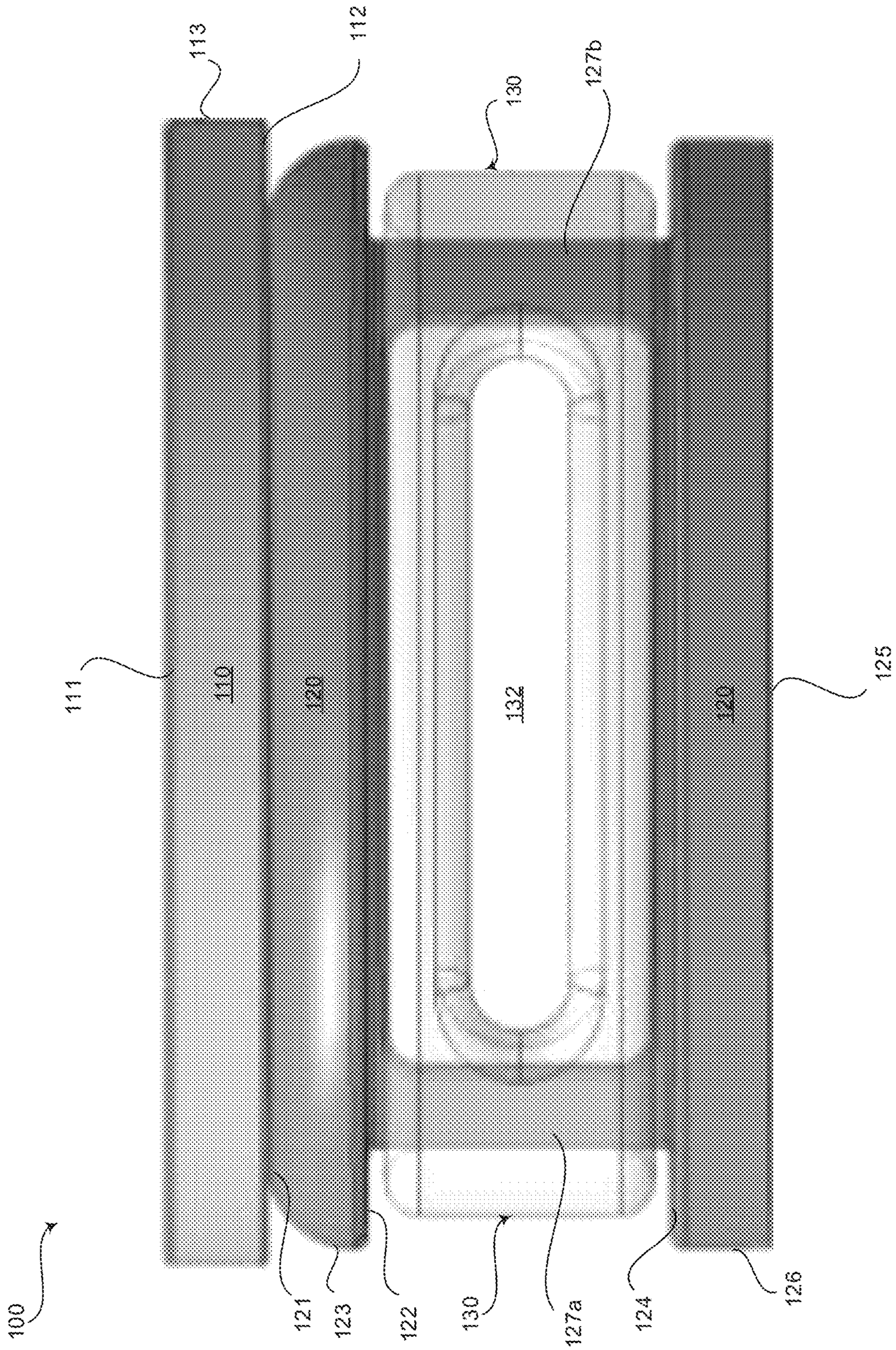
113
112
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127b
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FIG. 1

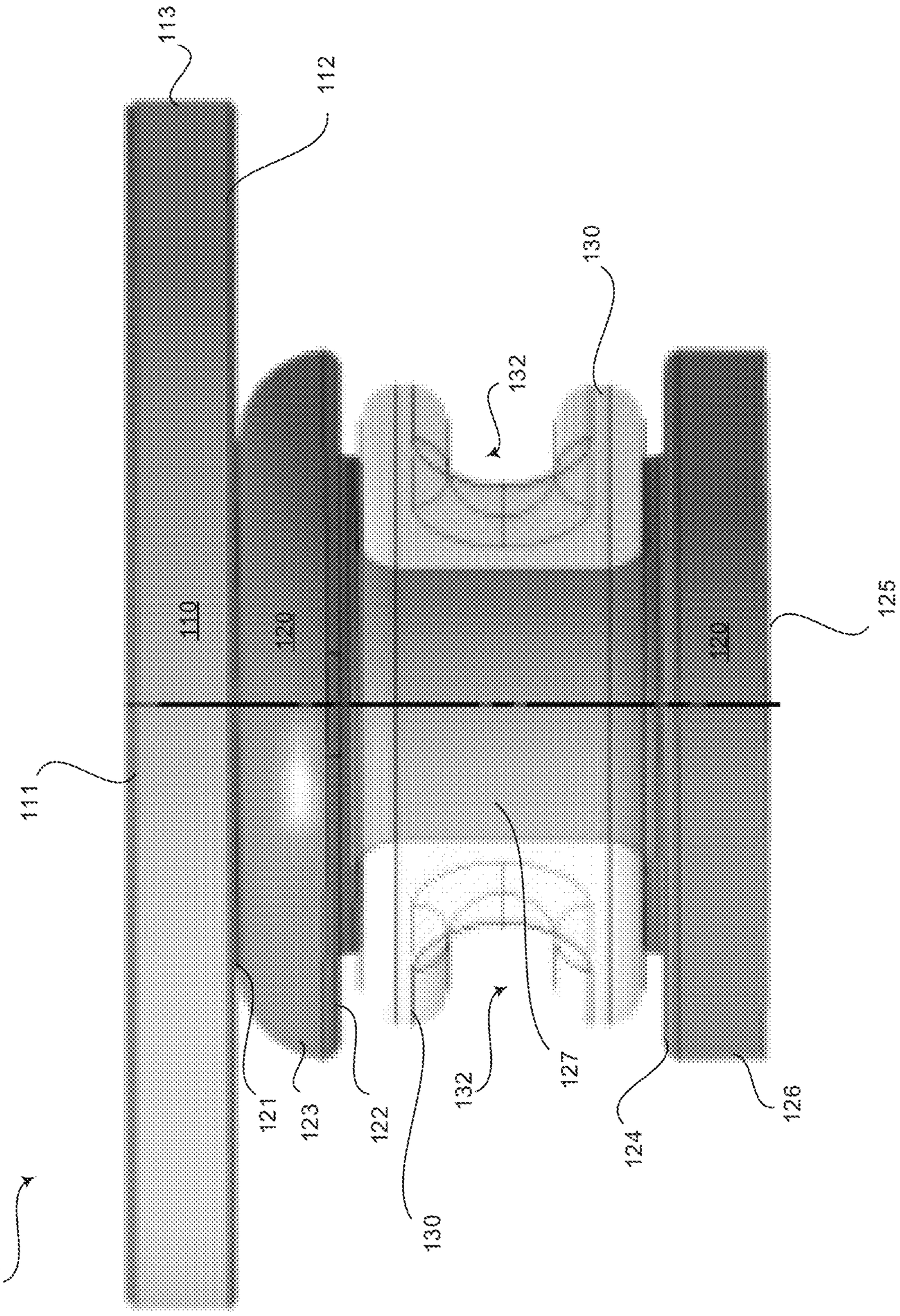

FIG. 2

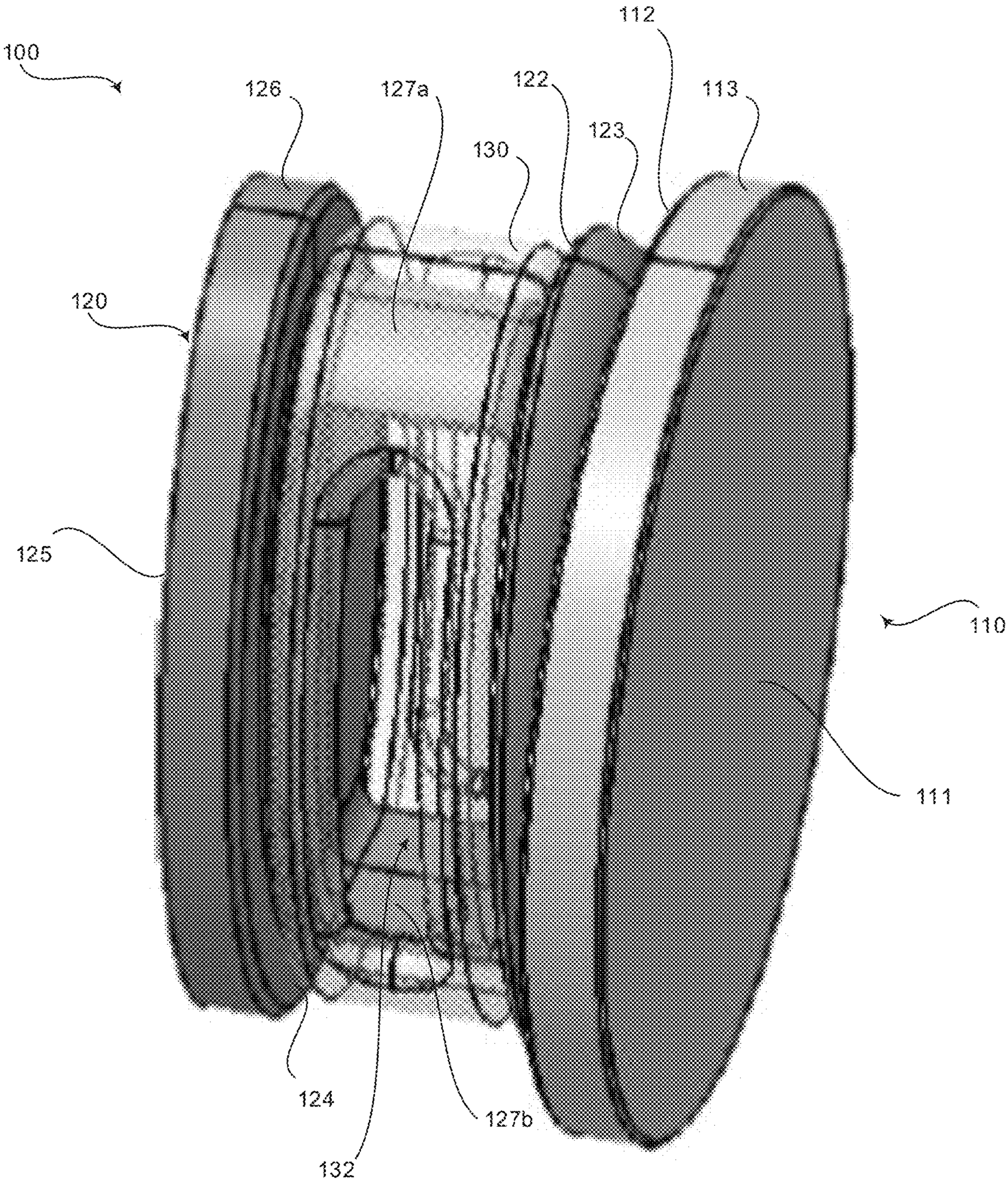

FIG. 3

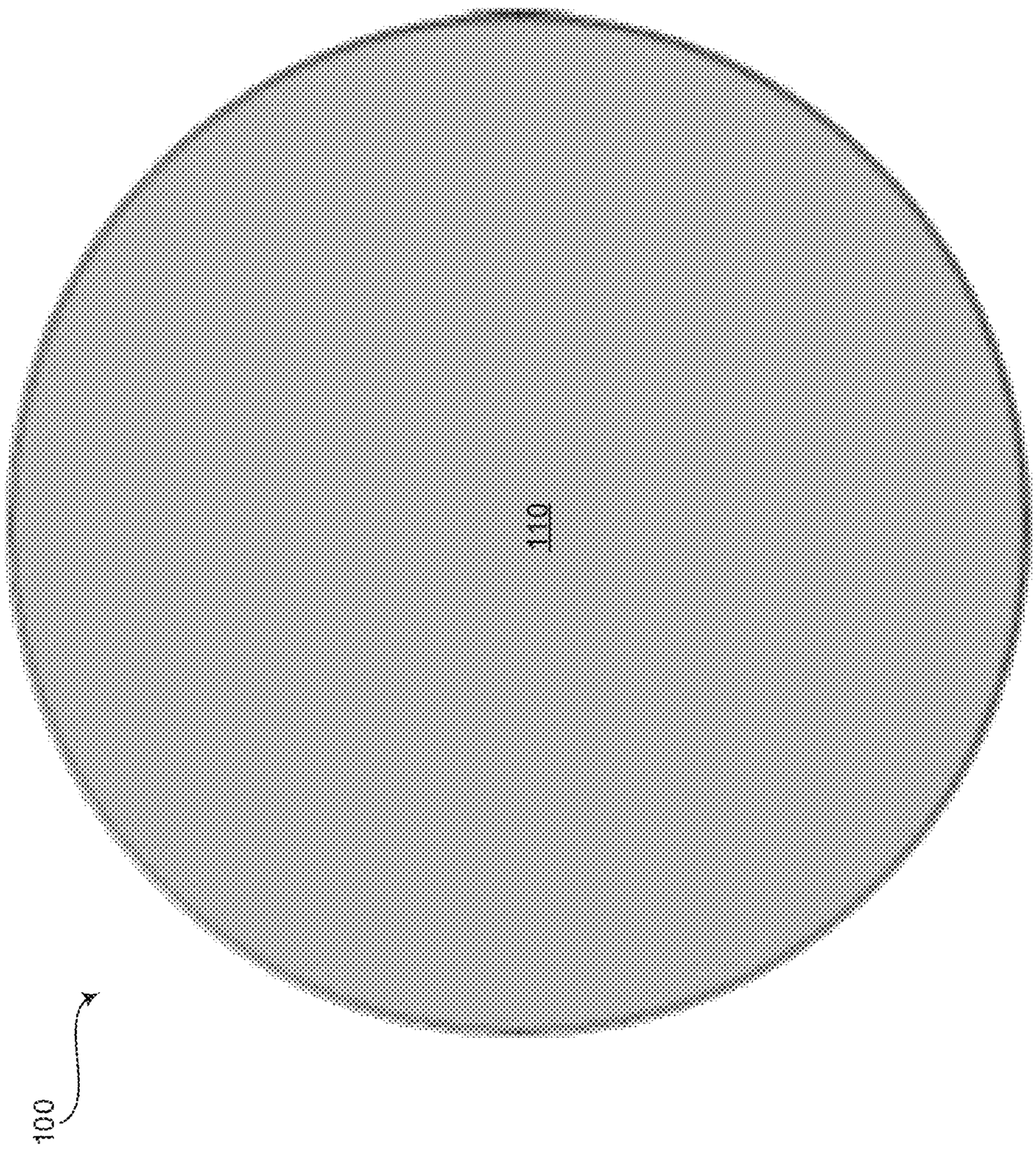

FIG. 4

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ATTACHING SIGNAGE TO APPAREL

FIELD

Certain embodiments relate to a signage apparatus. More specifically, certain embodiments provide an attachment mechanism fixedly attached to signage (e.g., a charm) and configured to detachably couple to apparel, such as a temple of eyeglasses, a bracelet, or shoelaces, for example, to securely hold the signage apparatus on the apparel.

BACKGROUND

Charms are personal, decorative pendants, trinkets, ornaments, or other signage that may be worn by a user on a bracelet, necklace, shoelaces, eyeglasses, or other apparel. However, the mechanisms configured to attach the charms to apparel may allow the charms to slide relatively freely on the apparel, may be difficult to attach to apparel, may be difficult to remove from apparel, and/or may be difficult to position on apparel at a substantially fixed position.

Further limitations and disadvantages of conventional and traditional approaches will become apparent to one of skill in the art, through comparison of such systems with some aspects of the present disclosure as set forth in the remainder of the present application with reference to the drawings.

BRIEF SUMMARY

A signage apparatus comprising signage affixed to an attachment mechanism configured to detachably couple to and securely hold the signage apparatus on apparel is provided, substantially as shown in and/or described in connection with at least one of the figures, as set forth more completely in the claims.

These and other advantages, aspects and novel features of the present disclosure, as well as details of an illustrated embodiment thereof, will be more fully understood from the following description and drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a front perspective view of an exemplary signage apparatus, in accordance with various embodiments.

FIG. **2** is a side view of an exemplary signage apparatus, in accordance with various embodiments.

FIG. **3** is a top, front perspective view of an exemplary signage apparatus, in accordance with various embodiments.

FIG. **4** is a top view of an exemplary signage apparatus, in accordance with various embodiments.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Certain embodiments may be found in a signage apparatus configured to detachably couple to apparel. More specifically, certain embodiments provide an attachment mechanism including a base, cap, outer stabilizers, and a flexible component. The base may be fixedly attached to signage. The outer stabilizers may fixedly couple the base to the cap and provide an aperture between the outer stabilizers through the attachment mechanism. The flexible component may be positioned around and between the outer stabilizers. The flexible component includes slits on opposite sides of the flexible component that are positioned to align with the aperture between the outer stabilizers. The signage apparatus is configured to receive apparel, such as a temple of eyeglasses, a bracelet, or shoelaces, for example, through the slits of the flexible component and the aperture of the attachment mechanism to securely hold the signage apparatus on the apparel.

As used herein, an element recited in the singular and proceeded with the word "a" or "an" should be understood as not excluding the plural of the elements, unless such exclusion is explicitly stated. Furthermore, references to "an embodiment," "one embodiment," "a representative embodiment," "an exemplary embodiment," "various embodiments," "certain embodiments," and the like are not intended to be interpreted as excluding the existence of additional embodiments that also incorporate the recited features. Moreover, unless explicitly stated to the contrary, embodiments "comprising," "including," or "having" an element or a plurality of elements having a particular property may include additional elements not having that property.

FIG. **1** is a front perspective view of an exemplary signage apparatus **100**, in accordance with various embodiments. FIG. **2** is a side view of an exemplary signage apparatus **100**, in accordance with various embodiments. FIG. **3** is a top, front perspective view of an exemplary signage apparatus **100**, in accordance with various embodiments. FIG. **4** is a top view of an exemplary signage apparatus **100**, in accordance with various embodiments.

Referring to FIGS. **1-4**, the signage apparatus **100** comprises signage **110** and an attachment mechanism **120**, **130**. The signage **110** may comprise a front face **111**, a rear face **112**, and a lateral side **113**. The signage may be a charm or any suitable signage. The signage **110** may be various shapes, sizes, colors, and designs, such as a football, softball, baseball, soccer ball, heart, shamrock, flower, Christmas tree, pumpkin, American flag, apple, or any suitable shape, size, color, or design. The signage **110** may include various messages, including text, numbers, symbols, or the like on the front face **111**. The signage **110** may be plastic, thermoplastic, rubber, metal, and/or any suitable material. For example, the signage **100** may be polyvinyl chloride (PVC). The front face **111** of the signage may be configured to be displayed, viewable, and/or otherwise exposed. The rear face **112** of the signage **110** may be fixedly attached to the attachment mechanism **120**, **130**. For example, the rear face **112** of the signage **110** may be integrated with the attachment mechanism **120**, **130** and/or otherwise securely coupled to the attachment mechanism **120**, **130**, such as by an adhesive or the like.

The attachment mechanism **120**, **130** may comprise a support **120** and a flexible component **130**. The support **120** may comprise a base **121-123**, a cap **124-126**, and outer stabilizers **127**, **127***a-b*. In various embodiments, the base **121-123**, cap **124-126**, and outer stabilizers **127**, **127***a-b* are formed as a single integrated component. The base **121-123** may comprise a base upper side **121**, a base lower side **123**, and a base lateral side **122** extending between the base upper side **121** and the base lower side **123**. The base upper side **121** may be fixedly attached (i.e., securely connected or integrated with) to the rear face **112** of the signage **110**. The cap **124-126** may comprise a cap lower side **125**, a cap upper side **124**, and a cap lateral side **126** extending between the cap upper side **124** and the cap lower side **125**. The outer stabilizers **127**, **127***a-b* may be a plurality of outer stabilizers **127**, **127***a-b*, such as two (2) outer stabilizers **127***a*, **127***b*. Although two (2) outer stabilizers **127***a*, **127***b* are shown and described, additional outer stabilizers are also envisioned (e.g., four (4), six (6), or eight (8) outer stabilizers). At least

one of the outer stabilizers **127**, **127***a* may extend between and connect a first outer cap portion of the cap upper side **124** and a first outer base portion of the base lower side **122**. At least one other of the outer stabilizers, **127***b* may extend between and connect a second outer cap portion of the cap upper side **124** and a second outer base portion of the base lower side **122**. The first and second outer cap portions may be on opposite outer sides of the cap **124-126**. The first and second outer base portions may be on opposite outer sides of the base **121-123**. The first outer cap portion may align with and/or otherwise correspond with the first outer base portion. The second outer cap portion may align with and/or otherwise correspond with the second outer base portion. The outer stabilizers **127**, **127***a-b*, and portions of the cap upper side **124** and base lower side **122** between the outer stabilizers **127**, **127***a-b*, form an aperture extending through the support **120**. The aperture may be substantially rectangular, square-shaped, oval, circular, or the like. The support **120** may be plastic, thermoplastic, rubber, metal, and/or any suitable material. For example, the support may be nylon plastic.

In various embodiments, the support **120** may be approximately 16.5 millimeters (i.e., 14-19 millimeters) long, approximately 10 millimeters (i.e., 7.5-12.5 millimeters) wide, and approximately 7.5 millimeters (i.e., 6-9 millimeters) tall. In an exemplary embodiment, each of the base **121-123** and cap **124-126** may be approximately 16.5 millimeters (i.e., 14-19 millimeters) long, approximately 10 millimeters (i.e., 7.5-12.5 millimeters) wide, and have a thickness of approximately 1.5 millimeters (i.e., 1-2 millimeters). The outer stabilizers **127**, **127***a-b* may have a height of approximately 3.9 millimeters (i.e., 3.4-4.4 millimeters) and a thickness of approximately 1.25 millimeters (i.e., 1.0-1.5 millimeters). The aperture formed between the base lower side **122** and the cap upper side **124** may have a height of approximately 3.9 millimeters (i.e., 3.4-4.4 millimeters) and a width between the outer stabilizers **127**, **127***a-b* of approximately 11 millimeters (i.e., 10-12 millimeters).

The flexible component **130** may be positioned around and between the outer stabilizers **127**, **127***a-b*. The flexible component **130** comprises slits **132** on opposite sides of and/or extending through the flexible component **130**. The slits **132** are positioned to align with the aperture between the outer stabilizers **127**, **127***a-b*. In an exemplary embodiment, the flexible component **130** may be an O-ring made of silicone or any suitable material. The flexible O-ring **130** may be positioned around the first and second outer stabilizers **127**, **127***a-b* and between the cap upper side **124** and the base lower side **122**. For example, the flexible O-ring **130** may be stretched around the first outer stabilizer **127**, **127***a* and the second outer stabilizer **127***b* such that an inner surface of the flexible O-ring **130** contacts the first and second outer stabilizers **127**, **127***a-b*. The stretched flexible O-ring **130** provides an inward force on the first and second outer stabilizers **127**, **127***a-b*. The flexible O-ring **130** having the slits **132** may be positioned such that the slits **132** align with the aperture formed in the support **120**.

In an alternative embodiment, the flexible component **130** may be silicone or any suitable material that fills the space between the first and second outer stabilizers **127**, **127***a* above the cap upper side **124** and below the base lower side **122**. For example, the flexible component **130** may be manufactured by an injection molding, multi-shot injection molding, extrusion, and/or three-dimensional (3D) printing process (defined as a manufacturing process) with the support **120**. The flexible component **130** includes the slit **132** extending through the flexible component **130** and the aperture of the support **120** from a front side of the attachment mechanism **120**, **130** to a rear side of the attachment mechanism **120**, **130**.

In various embodiments, the signage apparatus **100** may be manufactured by a manufacturing process (i.e., injection molding, multi-shot injection molding, extrusion, and/or 3D printing) to provide a single integrated component. In certain embodiments, the signage **110** and the support **120** may be manufactured by a manufacturing process to form a single integrated component and the flexible component **130** may be a flexible O-ring comprising slits **132**, where the flexible O-ring **130** is positioned around the outer stabilizers **127**, **127***a-b* such that the slits **132** are aligned with the aperture of the support. In various embodiments, the attachment mechanism **120**, **130** may be manufactured by a manufacturing process to form a single integrated component and the rear face **112** of the signage **110** may be fixedly secured to base upper side **121**.

In operation, a piece of apparel, such as a temple of eyeglasses, a shoelace, a bracelet, or any suitable apparel, is aligned and inserted through the slit(s) **132** of the flexible component **130** and the aperture of the support **120**. The flexible component **130** fits snugly around the piece of apparel, allowing a user to manipulate the signage apparatus **100** on the apparel to a desired position while firmly securing the signage apparatus **100** at the position. In other words, the signage apparatus **100** is configured to be held securely on the apparel unless or until an external force is applied to the signage apparatus, such as to position the signage apparatus **100**, remove the signage apparatus **100** from the apparel, or the like.

For example, referring to FIG. **3**, a right temple of eyeglasses may be inserted from the rear of the signage apparatus **100** through the slit **132** of the flexible component **130** and aperture of the support **120**. As another example, a left temple of eyeglasses may be inserted from the front of the signage apparatus **100** through the slit **132** of the flexible component **130** and aperture of the support **120**. In either example, the signage apparatus **100** may be slideably positioned at a desired location on the temple of the eyeglasses. The flexible component **130** snuggly surrounds the temple to hold the signage apparatus **100** at the desired location on the temple. The front face **111** of the signage **110** is on display and may be visualized by others interacting with a user wearing the eyeglasses.

Aspects of the present disclosure provide a signage apparatus **100** configured to detachably couple to apparel. The signage apparatus **100** may comprise signage **110** and an attachment mechanism **120**, **130**. The signage may comprise a front face **111** and a rear face **112**. The attachment mechanism **120**, **130** may comprise a base **121-123**, a cap **124-126**, a plurality of outer stabilizers **127**, **127***a-b*, and a flexible component **130**. The base **121-123** may comprise a base upper side **121** and a base lower side **122**. The base upper side **121** may be attached to the rear face **112** of the signage **110**. The cap **124-126** may comprise a cap lower side **125** and a cap upper side **124**. The plurality of outer stabilizers **127**, **127***a-b* may extend between outer cap portions of the cap upper side **124** and outer base portions of the base lower side **122**. The plurality of outer stabilizers **127**, **127***a-b*, the cap upper side **124**, and the base lower side **122** form an aperture extending through the attachment mechanism **120**, **130**. The flexible component **130** may extend between the plurality of outer stabilizers **127**, **127***a-b* and between the cap upper side **124** and the base lower side **122**. The flexible component **130** may comprise at least one slit **132**. The attachment mechanism **120**, **130** may be config-

ured to receive a piece of apparel through the at least one slit **132** of the flexible component **130** and the aperture.

In a representative embodiment, the outer cap portions comprise a first outer cap portion and a second outer cap portion opposite the first outer cap portion. In an exemplary embodiment, the outer base portions comprise a first outer base portion and a second outer base portion opposite the first outer base portion. In various embodiments, the first outer cap portion and the first outer base portion are aligned, and the second outer cap portion and the second outer base portion are aligned. In certain embodiments, the plurality of outer stabilizers **127**, **127***a-b* comprises a first outer stabilizer **127**, **127***a* and a second outer stabilizer **127***b*. The first outer stabilizer **127**, **127***a* may extend between the first outer cap portion of the cap upper side **124** and the first outer base portion of the base lower side **122**. The second outer stabilizer **127***b* may extend between the second outer cap portion of the cap upper side **124** and the second outer base portion of the base lower side **122**.

In an exemplary embodiment, the flexible component **130** may be a flexible O-ring **130** and the at least one slit **132** is two slits **132** positioned on opposite sides of the flexible O-ring **130**. In a representative embodiment, the flexible O-ring **130** may be positioned around and between the plurality of outer stabilizers **127**, **127***a-b* such that the two slits **132** are aligned with the aperture. In certain embodiment, the flexible O-ring **130** may comprise silicone. In various embodiments, the flexible O-ring **130** may be stretched around the plurality of outer stabilizers **127**, **127***a-b* such that an inner surface of the flexible O-ring **130** contacts the plurality of outer stabilizers **127**, **127***a-b*. In a representative embodiment, the flexible O-ring **130** may provide an inward force on the plurality of outer stabilizers **127**, **127***a-b*. In an exemplary embodiment, the flexible component **130** may be a manufactured material **130** (i.e., injection molded, multi-shot injection molded, extruded, and/or 3D printed material) that fills the aperture. The at least one slit **132** may be one slit **132** extending through the manufactured material **130** and the aperture. In certain embodiments, the manufactured material **130** may comprise silicone.

In various embodiments, the base **121-123**, the cap **124-126**, and the plurality of stabilizers **127**, **127***a-b* form a support **120** of the attachment mechanism **120**, **130**. In certain embodiments, the support **120** may be a single integrated component. In a representative embodiment, the support **120** may comprise nylon plastic. In an exemplary embodiment, the signage **110** and the support **120** may be a single integrated component. In various embodiments, the signage **110** and the attachment mechanism **120**, **130** are a single integrated component. In certain embodiments, the signage **110** may comprise polyvinyl chloride (PVC). In a representative embodiment, the signage **110** may be a charm. In an exemplary embodiment, the piece of apparel may be a temple of eyeglasses.

As utilized herein, "and/or" means any one or more of the items in the list joined by "and/or". As an example, "x and/or y" means any element of the three-element set {(x), (y), (x, y)}. As another example, "x, y, and/or z" means any element of the seven-element set {(x), (y), (z), (x, y), (x, z), (y, z), (x, y, z)}. As utilized herein, the term "exemplary" means serving as a non-limiting example, instance, or illustration. As used herein, the terms "exemplary" and "example" mean serving as a non-limiting example, instance, or illustration. As used herein, the term "e.g." and "for example" set off lists of one or more non-limiting examples, instances, or illustrations. As utilized herein, a component is "operable" and/or "configured" to perform a function whenever the component is designed and comprises the necessary element(s) to perform the function, regardless of whether the function is performed and/or whether performance of the function is disabled, or not enabled, by some user-configurable setting.

While the present disclosure has been described with reference to certain embodiments, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes may be made and equivalents may be substituted without departing from the scope of the present disclosure. In addition, many modifications may be made to adapt a particular situation or material to the teachings of the present disclosure without departing from its scope. Therefore, it is intended that the present disclosure not be limited to the particular embodiment or embodiments disclosed, but that the present disclosure will include all embodiments falling within the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A signage apparatus comprising:

signage comprising a front face and a rear face; and

an attachment mechanism comprising:

a base comprising a base upper side and a base lower side, the base upper side attached to the rear face of the signage;

a cap comprising a cap lower side and a cap upper side;

a plurality of outer stabilizers extending between outer cap portions of the cap upper side and outer base portions of the base lower side, wherein the plurality of outer stabilizers, the cap upper side, and the base lower side form an aperture extending through the attachment mechanism; and

a flexible component extending between the plurality of outer stabilizers and between the cap upper side and the base lower side, the flexible component comprising at least one slit,

wherein the attachment mechanism is configured to receive a piece of apparel through the at least one slit of the flexible component and the aperture.

2. The signage apparatus of claim **1**, wherein the outer cap portions comprise a first outer cap portion and a second outer cap portion opposite the first outer cap portion.

3. The signage apparatus of claim **2**, wherein the outer base portions comprise a first outer base portion and a second outer base portion opposite the first outer base portion.

4. The signage apparatus of claim **3**, wherein:

the first outer cap portion and the first outer base portion are aligned, and

the second outer cap portion and the second outer base portion are aligned.

5. The signage apparatus of claim **4**, wherein the plurality of outer stabilizers comprises:

a first outer stabilizer extending between the first outer cap portion of the cap upper side and the first outer base portion of the base lower side; and

a second outer stabilizer extending between the second outer cap portion of the cap upper side and the second outer base portion of the base lower side.

6. The signage apparatus of claim **1**, wherein the flexible component is a flexible O-ring and the at least one slit is two slits positioned on opposite sides of the flexible O-ring.

7. The signage apparatus of claim **6**, wherein the flexible O-ring is positioned around and between the plurality of outer stabilizers such that the two slits are aligned with the aperture.

8. The signage apparatus of claim 6, wherein the flexible O-ring comprises silicone.

9. The signage apparatus of claim 6, wherein the flexible O-ring is stretched around the plurality of outer stabilizers such that an inner surface of the flexible O-ring contacts the plurality of outer stabilizers.

10. The signage apparatus of claim 9, wherein the flexible O-ring provides an inward force on the plurality of outer stabilizers.

11. The signage apparatus of claim 1, wherein the flexible component is a manufactured material that fills the aperture, wherein the at least one slit is one slit extending through the manufactured material and the aperture.

12. The signage apparatus of claim 11, wherein the manufactured material comprises silicone.

13. The signage apparatus of claim 1, wherein the base, the cap, and the plurality of stabilizers form a support of the attachment mechanism.

14. The signage apparatus of claim 13, wherein the support is a single integrated component.

15. The signage apparatus of claim 13, wherein the support comprises nylon plastic.

16. The signage apparatus of claim 13, wherein the signage and the support are a single integrated component.

17. The signage apparatus of claim 1, wherein the signage and the attachment mechanism are a single integrated component.

18. The signage apparatus of claim 1, wherein the signage comprises polyvinyl chloride (PVC).

19. The signage apparatus of claim 1, wherein the signage is a charm.

20. The signage apparatus of claim 1, wherein the piece of apparel is a temple of eyeglasses.

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